

HSAS COMMON SENSE: CURRENT EVENTS RELEASE

WRITTEN AND REVIEWED BY AMENA STEENHUIS, ARI SCHAEER, JESSI ZHENG, JOYCE LEE, THEODORE CACY, JACK MCCURRY, JACKSON PARKER, TAHSAN LATIF, EVANGELINA BENAKIS, ZARA RASUL, SEBASTIAN KOPP, VERONICA MOLLOD, KAELA GLASER, ADAM RIPP, MAYA BRENER, MOLLIE KRITZKY, AND THEODORE CACY

Global Events: Russia Suffers Terrorist Attack

Veronica MolloD and Sebastian Kopp, Grade 10, Staff Writers

- On March 22nd, at least 144 people were killed in an attack on the Crocus City Hall concert venue in Moscow.
- The four men suspected of carrying out the attack, all natives of Tajikistan, appeared in court showing signs of having been beaten severely, and one did not appear fully conscious and was in a wheelchair.
- ISIS has claimed responsibility for the attack, though the Russian government, without any evidence, has claimed that the attack was associated with Ukraine.
- Ukraine has denied involvement and called the accusations “absurd.”
- Videos and images showing the four suspects being violently beaten circulated on Russian social media.
- Even though the US government had warned Putin of a potential ISIS attack, he considered it to be borderline blackmail.

American Politics: Developments for Independents

Tahsan Latif, Grade 10, and Jackson Parker, Grade 12, Staff Writers

- As a rematch between Donald Trump and Joe Biden looks likelier than ever, third parties and prominent independent candidates face mixed news.
- On March 26, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. chose Nicole Shanahan as his running mate for an independent presidential ticket.
- Shanahan was a tech and environmental lawyer with a history of support for the Democratic Party.
- Shanahan had not held any public office before becoming Kennedy’s running mate but had donated over \$4 million to his campaign through the American Values 2024 super PAC.
- On April 4, No Labels, a major centrist political party, stated that it would no longer be fielding a presidential candidate for 2024.
- The party had promised a “Unity ticket” to disillusioned voters and had raised over \$60 million in donations this past year.
- But after numerous rejections from moderate politicians, No Labels had failed to find a suitable candidate.

Miscellaneous News:

Ari Schaer and Amena Steenhuis, Grade 11, Staff Writers

- Israel’s security cabinet approved the reopening of the Erez Crossing—a pedestrian border between Israel and Northern Gaza to allow greater humanitarian aid into Gaza. The decision was made amidst pressure from foreign powers, including the U.S., to better facilitate aid and stem the number of deaths of aid workers.
- The Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, Maryland collapsed on March 26, 2024, after a cargo vessel lost control and crashed into it. Few victims were recovered from the collapse, the six that were unrecovered were assumed dead after days of search.
- 9 people were declared dead and hundreds more were injured after a 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit Taiwan. A 6.3 scale earthquake struck the coast of Japan just hours later, with the Japanese government issuing preemptive tsunami warnings.

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